

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LONDON 12621 011435Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6682

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 12621

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1  
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, FR, IT, UK  
SUBJECT: BRITISH MINISTER COMMENTS ON EUROCOMMUNISM

1. MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS FRANK JUDD, FONSEC OWEN'S PRINCIPAL DEPUTY, ALSO DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR EUROPEAN AFFAIRS, EXPRESSED TO DCM JULY 28 CONCERNS ABOUT ATTITUDES TOWARD EUROCOMMUNISM. HE SAID THAT POLICIES MUST NOT GET SO FAR AHEAD OF REALITY AS TO CAUSE OR HASTEN THE DEMISE OF NON-COMMUNIST SOCIALIST OR SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTIES. WHERE THESE PARTIES REALLY ARE DISCREDITED, AS MAY BE THE CASE IN ITALY, THE EURO-COMMUNISTS MIGHT BE THE ONLY EFFECTIVE LEFT-WING POLITICAL FORCE REMAINING, AND ADEQUATE RELATIONS WOULD NEED TO BE MAINTAINED WITH THEM.

2. JUDD SAID HE PERSONALLY FOUND IT VERY DIFFICULT TO COUNTENANCE FRIENDLY CONTACTS WITH COMMUNIST PARTIES. HE IS NOT NOW CONVINCED THAT FRENCH AND ITALIAN COMMUNIST LEADERS HAVE "CHANGED THEIR SPOTS;" BUT IF THEY ARE MERELY DISSEMBLING A NEW ATTACHMENT TO DEMOCRACY AND THE WEST. HE SEES A CHANCE THEY COULD BECOME PRISONERS OF THEIR NEW ROLE AND UNABLE TO REVERT TO TYPE.

3. JUDD SAID HE IS TRYING TO STIMULATE FRESH THINKING  
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ON THE EUROCOMMUNIST ISSUE WITHIN THE FCO. AND HAS ARRANGED FOR A SEMINAR ON THE TOPIC TO BE HELD IN SCOTLAND IN SEPTEMBER, INVOLVING KEY FCO PERSONNEL AND ACADEMIC EXOERTS. DCM DREW UPON STATEMENTS BY SENIOR US OFFICIALS TO REPEAT US VIEWS ON EUROCOMMUNISTS. UNDERLINING DIFFICULTIES THAT COULD BE CREATED IF COM- / MUNISTS ASSUMED MAJOR ROLES IN ALLIED GOVERNMENTS. DCM

ALSO SAID THAT FCO WORK ON EUROCOMMUNISM MIGHT PROVIDE  
A BASIS FOR FURTHER EXCHANGES OF VIEWS IN DUE COURSE.

4. COMMENT: WE SEE AN OPPORTUNITY TO CONTRIBUTE TO UK  
THINKING ON A CENTRAL ISSUE WHILE PERHAPS GAINING SOME  
INSIGHTS OURSELVES. IF WE ARE IN A POSITION TO SHARE US  
VIEWS WITH THE FCO. WE ESPECIALLY WOULD WELCOME ANY  
BACKGROUND PAPERS OR GUIDANCE WE COULD PROVIDE JUDD, ON  
A VERY CONFIDENTIAL BASIS IF NECESSARY.

BREWSTER

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## Message Attributes

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**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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